



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

Statement of Congressman Ron Kind

H.J.Res. 117,

Recognizing and commending the members of the United States Armed Forces and their leaders, and the allies of the United States and their armed forces, who participated in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and recognizing the continuing dedication of military families and employers and defense civilians and contractors and the countless communities and patriotic organizations that lent their support to the Armed Forces during those operations

June 3, 2003

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution honoring our brave men and women of the armed services. Their duty and sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan are appreciated by all Americans.

New challenges facing our nation demand increased vigilance on the part of our armed services. With these increased demands, the role of the National Guard and reserve forces is critical in providing the total force necessary to ensure our security. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to meet with many national guard and reserve members from western Wisconsin who have been called up for service operation enduring

freedom in Afghanistan and operation Iraqi freedom in Iraq.

Over 2,300 members of the Wisconsin Air and Army National Guard are serving on active duty. The people of western Wisconsin are proud of their service and the service of all the men and women of our armed forces during this important time in our nation's history.

We still have much to do in terms of peacekeeping and rebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan. In this effort, it is important that we engage our allies to share responsibility and pursue an effective, sustained commitment peace and stability in the region. If

we can do this right, we will not have to again, sometime down the road, send our military forces over to fight.

In addition, we recognize today all of the 'round-the-clock' work put in by the military personnel and DOD civilian employees at military mobilization platforms around our nation. In western Wisconsin, I represent fort McCoy, one of the army reserves' power projection platforms. Ft. McCoy has been continuously processing and training mobilized members of the National Guard and Reserve for the past six months. Their efforts have been key in getting our forces ready for combat.

It is also important that we recognize the support and sacrifice of the families and employers of our troops. They are the backbone of our fighting forces, and we appreciate their commitment during these challenging times.

The American people and the congress of the United States stand behind our

armed service members and those that support them. As our military effort continues, I, and other members of Congress will continue to work to ensure that our service men and women have all the resources necessary to fulfil their mission.

My thoughts and prayers are with those serving our country overseas, as well as their families. America is firmly behind our troops, and we're all hoping to see them home safe, secure and soon.

May god continue to bless the United States of America.